

Ah, how sweet it is to love!
by: John Dryden

Ah, how sweet it is to love!
Ah, how gay is young Desire!
And what pleasing pains we prove
When we first approach Love's fire!
Pains of love be sweeter far
Than all other pleasures are.

Sighs which are from lovers blown
Do but gently heave the heart:
Ev'n the tears they shed alone
Cure, like trickling balm, their smart:
Lovers, when they lose their breath,
Bleed away in easy death.

Love and Time with reverence use,
Treat them like a parting friend;
Nor the golden gifts refuse
Which in youth sincere they send:
For each year their price is more,
And they less simple than before.

Love, like spring-tides full and high,
Swells in every youthful vein;
But each tide does less supply,
Till they quite shrink in again:
If a flow in age appear,
'Tis but rain, and runs not clear.

"Ah, how sweet it is to love!" is a poem (a solo song) in "Tyrannick Love" a tragedy by John Dryden. An English poet, literary critic, translator, and playwright. He is seen as dominating the literary life of Restoration England to such a point that the period came to be known in literary circles as the Age of Dryden. It consists of four six-line stanzas (24 lines total). The rhyme scheme for the stanzas is ABABCC.

In the first stanza, the poet starts with a very strong wondering about the sweetness of love by using WH question. He repeated the WH questions four times, as we can imagine that he is really in love. As any lover around the world he must have been suffering from the love fellows. He says that whenever we, the lovers, reach the edge of the real love, the real love will burn us yet it's a good thing because the taste of that fire will be sweet. However, he catches the reader's attention by saying that there is nothing is better, sweeter, than this suffering. He even considers it, love's pain, as a pleasure!

In the second stanza, the poet says that the sighs of these lovers calm down the heart somehow. Even when they cry alone, the tears are like a soothing medication that can cure their pain. Then he says that when the lovers lose their passion, the love will stop and die, but his death will be easy and smooth!

In the third stanza, the poet says that we should respect love and time, and treat them like a close friend who is going to leave someday. Also we should never refuse a gift that comes from a friend. The gifts of time and love are youth and happiness, so a person must make the best advantage of them and use them wisely, because refusing such gifts will cause us a lot since they won't come back again, and they will be harder to get in the future.

In the fourth stanza, the poet expands the last idea by depicting the love in youth is like ebb and flow. It comes in high emotions just like the high waves. However, a person must not expect such as love in old age, and if there is any, it won't be a real love, it much like some drops of rain.

To sum up, the poem discusses the pains of love, and shows that it is sweeter than all other pleasures. Also it tells us that the secret of strong love lie-in pains, so whenever the lovers stop to suffer, the love stops and die. The poet is perfectly capturing young love and its pains as the theme of this poem.